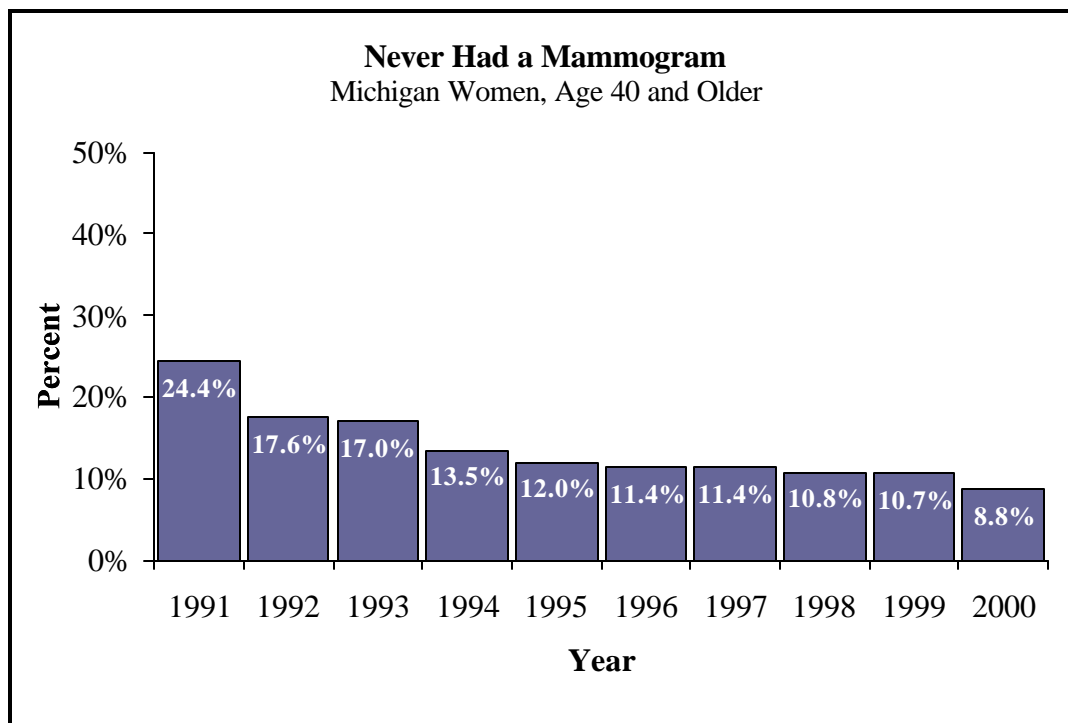


Focused Indicators

Preventive Health Care

Mammography



Source: Bureau of Epidemiology, MDCH

How are we doing?

Mammography is an examination of the breast by x-rays in order to detect tumors before they can be detected by some other means. Routine preventive health care against breast cancer includes an annual mammogram screening accompanied by a clinical breast examination for women over a particular age or women with specific risks factors. A screening program that includes mammography may reduce the likelihood of death due to breast cancer.

The 2000 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) indicates the proportion of women age 40 and older who reported never having had a mammogram has decreased from 24.4 percent in 1991 to 8.8 percent in 2000. Mammography can detect breast cancer an average of 1.7 years before it can be felt by clinical breast exam and, in most cases, survival increases with earlier detection.

How does Michigan compare to other states?

In 2000, the prevalence of women who had never had a mammogram in Michigan was 8.8 percent while the median among all the states was 11.9 percent.

How are different populations affected?

There was little difference in Michigan across racial, income and educational groups in the prevalence of women, aged 40 years and older, who have never had a mammogram. Mammography and clinical breast examination combined are more effective in detecting breast cancer than either examination alone. Nearly 42 percent of females aged 40 and older had not had a mammogram and clinical breast exam within the past year. This proportion tended to decrease with increasing educational and household income levels.

For more information about adult health risk behaviors, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

What other information is important to know?

Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. Women aged 20-39 years old should have a clinical breast examination every three years. After age 40, every woman should have an annual screening mammogram and clinical breast exam.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?

The department is actively working to increase the use of mammography screening along with other preventive techniques. Since 1991, the department has implemented a comprehensive Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP), through a multi-year grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Through this program, women who have breast and cervical cancer will be identified at earlier stages of these diseases, when treatment is less expensive and the survival rate is more favorable. Working together, medical providers and local health agencies can ensure that the highest quality breast and cervical cancer control services are available to all women in their communities. In 2001, the program served more than 18,000 low-income women. Over 129 breast cancers were diagnosed in these women.

The state Medicaid program also provides full coverage, consistent with the American Cancer Society guidelines, of both diagnostic and screening mammography services. In addition, the Medicaid program recently extended coverage for treatment of breast and cervical cancers detected through the BCCCP for women who otherwise have no medical coverage.

For more information about cancer control programs, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

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